

## US GOVERNMENT DROPS CASE AGAINST JONATHAN WRIGHT, MD

After years of investigation, the US Justice Department has decided that no charges will be filed against Dr Jonathan Wright.

Readers may recall that on 6th May 1992, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) staged a raid on Dr Wright's Tacoma Clinic in Kent, Washington. They were accompanied by state and federal law enforcement agents who actually broke down the doors and came in with weapons drawn, dressed in flak jackets and riot gear. They held the staff at gunpoint, ordered patients to stand against the wall and detained staff and physicians for most of the day while they confiscated various types of vitamins and minerals.

The Tacoma Clinic is just one of scores of such businesses raided over the last few years by the FDA, which seems more intent on protecting drug companies than protecting the public.

(Source: *Townsend Letter for Doctors & Patients*, November 1995)

## UK SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FAIL TO BEAT CRIME

Closed-circuit TV (CCTV) cameras have been the subject of several documentaries and banner headlines claiming large reductions in crime, but these claims are not actually true!



Two independent studies in the UK show that there is no hard evidence whatsoever to support these claims. One of these studies reveals that CCTV has had little impact on many types of crime, with some even increasing.

Vehicle crime, burglaries and vandalism dropped, but theft, possession of drugs and robberies all increased during the year after the cameras were switched on.

To avoid being seen by the cameras, many criminals started stealing from people when they were inside a shop. And despite the cameras, most assaults still took place in the High Street, "concentrated around McDonalds, Burger King, pubs and the railway stations".

It would appear that the introduction of CCTV has merely displaced crime from one place to another.

Despite these studies, the British Government is determined to push ahead with its planned national surveillance system. In November 1995, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, announced that the government was making £15 million available to local councils for the introduction of another 10,000 CCTV cameras in more than 100 towns around the country. This is on top of the £5 million made available to councils in October 1994.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 23-30 December 1995)

## MOON MYSTERY STATEMENT CLEARED UP

It seems when *Apollo 11* mission astronaut Neil Armstrong first walked on the Moon, he not only gave his famous "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" statement, but followed it with several remarks—the usual communications traffic between him, the other astronauts and Mission Control. But before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark, "Good luck, Mr Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian nor American space programs.

Over the years, many people have questioned him as to what the "Good luck, Mr Gorsky" statement meant. A few months ago (5th July '95) in Tampa Bay, Florida, Armstrong was answering questions following a speech, when a reporter brought up the 26-year-old question. Armstrong finally responded. It seems that Mr Gorsky had finally died and so Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

When Neil Armstrong was a kid, he was playing baseball with his brother in the backyard. His brother hit a fly ball which landed in front of his neighbours' bedroom window. His neighbours were Mr and Mrs Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick it up, he heard Mrs Gorsky shouting at Mr Gorsky: "Oral sex! Oral sex you want!? You'll get oral sex when the kid next door walks on the Moon!"

(Source: *emailed from via@eden.com*, 29 November 1995)



## PESTICIDES LINKED TO CHRONIC FATIGUE

Maybe this is related to the item above, maybe not, but a study published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* in September '95 found a higher-than-average incidence of pesticides in chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) patients, and suggested a link between the recalcitrant chemicals and the disease.

Substantial levels of organochlorine pesticides, including insecticide DDT and fungicide hexachlorobenzene (HCB), were found in people with no known exposure to toxic chemicals.

The study, conducted by Newcastle University, measured HCB in about 45 per cent of CFS patients, compared to 21 per cent in other people without CFS. (Source: *The Australian*, 18 September 1995)

## MASS MEASLES JAB: WAS IT NECESSARY?

In October 1994, the UK Health Department launched a blitzkrieg immunisation campaign against measles, the justification for which was summed up in an explanatory pamphlet:

"Q. Are we really going to have a measles epidemic?

"A. Definitely. Predictions suggest that between 100,000 and 200,000 cases of measles will occur in 1995. Thousands of children will have to be admitted to hospital... Around 50 children will die."

Within a month, nearly seven million children between the ages of five and 16 got their booster jabs.

A triumphant David Salisbury, the principal medical officer involved, crowed that the epidemic was prevented, and pointed this out in May '95 in a letter to the *British Medical Journal*.

The campaign, which cost £20 million, resulted in hundreds of children falling ill following their jab, with many developing illnesses including epilepsy, rheumatoid arthritis, encephalitis, and transverse myelitis (an inflammation of the spinal cord that paralyses from the waist down).

On top of all this, Dr Richard Nicholson, Editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, stated, "There was never going to be a measles epidemic in 1995." (Unless, of course, all the previous measles shots were totally useless.)

Statistical evidence shows clearly that the incidence of measles has been dropping over the decades, and, in fact, had been dropping rapidly before the introduction of immunisations.

When Dr Nicholson asked the Health Department to produce the figures upon which the prediction for the epidemic was based, they were unable to do so.

The final result of this fiasco: the public is down £20 million; hundreds of families are suffering the effects of adverse vaccine reactions that no one will pay compensation for; no epidemic materialised in the non-vaccinated children; and the pharmaceutical drug companies made a fortune.

(Source: *The Sunday Telegraph* [UK], 15 October 1995)

## PESTICIDES FOUND IN BABY FOOD

An independent analysis of US baby food products found 16 different pesticides in the eight major baby foods.

Researchers with the Environmental Working Group (EWG) commissioned a food industry laboratory to analyse eight foods which form a significant part of the average infant's first-year diet: apple sauce, peaches, pears, plums, green beans, squash, sweet potatoes, peas and carrots.

The products tested were made by the three largest baby-food producers, Gerber, Heinz and Beech-Nut, whose sales account for 96 per cent of all baby food sold in the USA. They were tested using the Food and Drug Administration's standard pesticide analytical methods.

The study found 16 different pesticides, eight of which are suspected carcinogens. Five of the pesticides are known to disrupt the endocrine system, and eight are known to affect the nervous system.

(Source: *Green Left Weekly*, 6 September 1995)

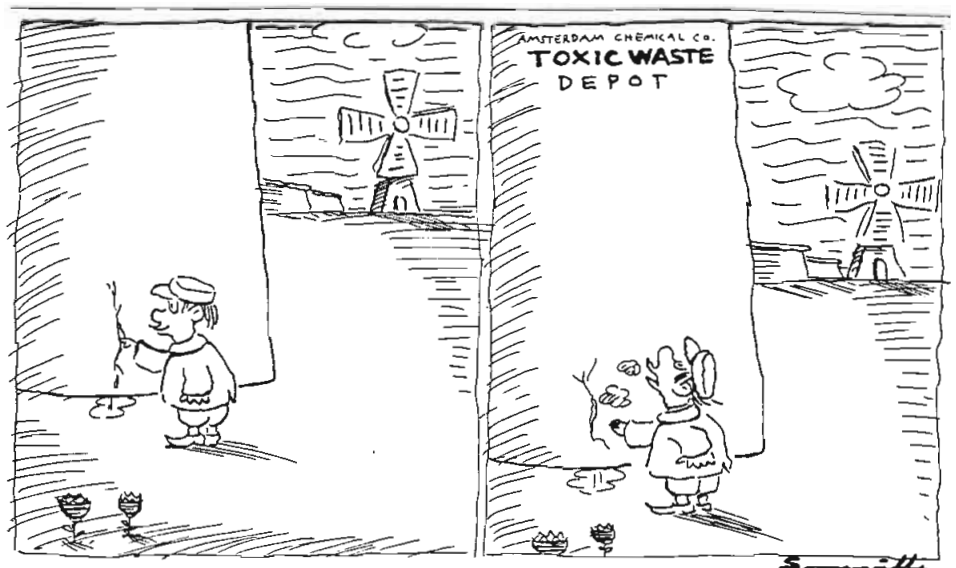
## DOCTORS CHEAT BECAUSE THEY KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU!

Doctors are so convinced that they know what's best for their patients that many are tempted to cheat in clinical trials.

Clinical trials are designed to compare the effectiveness of two treatments, ideally to see how a new drug compares with an old one or with no drug at all. Importantly, a patient is assigned to one of the two treatments at random—a technique designed to eliminate any effects introduced by researchers' biases. For example, a doctor may feel it is safer to assign only healthier patients to a new treatment, leaving riskier cases to the other therapy. As a safeguard, the details of who will receive what are usually coded and kept secret to prevent anyone interfering with the results.

But in trials where the codes were poorly concealed, or were pinned on the wall in the examiner's office, the new experimental treatments were on average 30 per cent more effective than when the codes were kept strictly confidential. These results suggested that when researchers could influence the way patients were assigned to treatments, they often did.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 16 December 1995)



**BEWARE THE BIO-PROSPECTORS**

The Australian Government is being urged to get tough with bio-prospectors who poach Australia's marine resources for new drugs and chemicals.

Dr Mary Garson of Queensland University has also criticised the wastage associated with bio-prospecting as "phenomenal". And she's right!

For instance, one bio-prospecting group in the US recently isolated just 1 mg of an anticancer compound from almost half a tonne of 3-millimetre-sized tubeworms found in India.

Another group collected 2.4 tonnes of an Indo-Pacific sponge which yielded less than 1 mg of another potent anticancer chemical; while 847 kilograms of moray eel livers were used to isolate 0.35 mg (yes, that's milligrams) of ciguatoxin for chemical study. That's a lot of moray eels!

Currently, bio-prospectors are ravaging the oceans around Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, but many fear that, as stocks are depleted further north, these agencies will move into Australian waters.

(Source: *The Weekend Australian*, 16-17 December 1995)

**OUTRAGE CONTINUES OVER US RADIATION EXPERIMENTS ON CITIZENS**

Groups representing individuals who were the subject of human radiation experiments in the United States after WWII have reacted with outrage at the main findings of the President's Advisory Committee on

Human Radiation Experiments, which reported to President Clinton in early October '95.

The groups, broadly represented by a body known as the Task Force on Radiation and Human Rights, have attacked the report for failing to recommend any medical follow-up to the experiments or compensation for subjects unable to prove that they experienced physical harm.

President Clinton has offered "sincerest apologies to those citizens, their families and their communities" who were experimented on without their knowledge or consent, on behalf of the US Government.

The activists want cash compensation for the victims and their families for their suffering, and they also want all experimental subjects to be formally notified of what happened, as well as be offered medical follow-up.

To add insult to injury, it has been revealed more recently that the Department of Energy spent more than US\$22 million researching the experiments and what happened. This figure includes US\$6.2 million spent by the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments which recommends that victims be financially compensated.

"My only reaction to that is 'Wow!'" said Robert Newman, lawyer for the plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit involving radiation experiments. "That amount of money could certainly have settled all the claims."

(Sources: *Nature*, 12 October 1995; *Sunshine Coast Daily*, 27 December 1995)

**CIA PSYCHIC MISINFORMATION?**

During the early part of December 1995, many newspapers and journals reported on the use of psychics by the CIA.

The mainstream press reported it as a "proof that psychics don't work—that's why the CIA was dumping them" story, but that is not entirely true.

To start with, the \$20-million US Government program to employ and evaluate paranormal spying techniques covered more than just "psychics". One does not have to be psychic to have an out-of-body experience, does one?

More importantly, the research was conducted by parts of the military/intelligence community much higher up the pecking order than the CIA. It was when the 'big boys upstairs' had picked the project clean for themselves that they tossed the carcass down to the CIA for a cursory but ritual sneer and the subsequent media leak.

Only a few newspapers picked up the fact that the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) conducted most of the work on the program, which was only recently declassified.

When the DIA had finished with it, they passed it onto the CIA which then got two analysts, Jessica Utts, a statistics professor at the University of California, and Ray Hyman, a psychology professor at the University of Oregon, to evaluate the work.

The report by Utts and Hyman to the Senate Appropriations Committee basically said that the program yielded some positive results, but there was no statistical evidence that could be drawn either to verify or deny its value to the intelligence community.

(Sources: *Nature*, 7 December 1995; *The Guardian Weekly*, w/e 19 December 1995; *The Australian*, 6 December 1995)

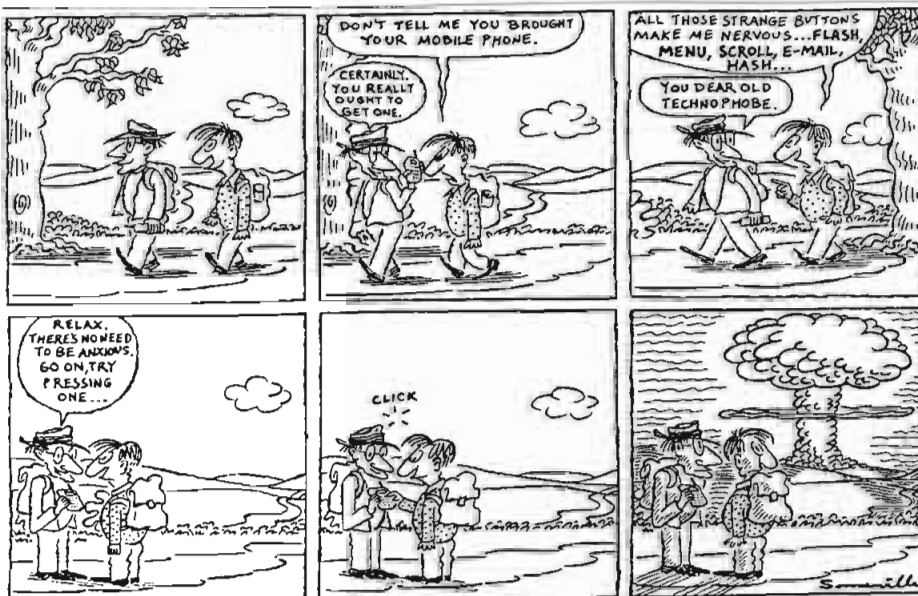
**MOBILE PHONES MAY "COOK" EARS**

Apart from fears that mobile phones are just mobile ID tags (see Letters to the Editor this issue), a senior physician in Denmark has warned that using a mobile phone may "cook" your ear!

According to Ole Svane, the transmitter inside the instrument generates an electromagnetic field similar to that of a microwave oven.

In a Danish Government report prepared for the European Commission, Mr Svane says he fears the phones are damaging the delicate cartilage and bone of the ear.

(Source: *Sunshine Coast Daily*, 23 December 1995)



## NATURAL CATASTROPHES AT RECORD HIGH FOR 1995

Natural disasters caused a record US\$180 billion worth of damage during 1995.

According to figures released by Germany's Munich Reinsurance, the company recorded nearly 600 natural catastrophes in 1995, including the Kobe earthquake (US\$100 billion), compared with 580 in 1994, the previous record year. Deaths from natural disasters topped 18,000 compared with just over 10,000 the year before.

Despite the increase of catastrophes, the actual cost to insurance companies fell, basically due to legal limits in Japan on insurance cover for earthquake damage and the fact that the government met much of the cost to private households. Also, damage to infrastructure such as roads, bridges and harbour facilities was not covered by insurance.

This meant that the cost to the insurance industry in 1994 was US\$14 billion, a drop from US\$17 billion in 1994, and \$28 billion in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew alone cost the industry US\$20 billion.

(Source: *The Australian*, 29 December 1995)

## AUSTRALIA'S MYSTERY RACE

Not many people know this, but there are literally thousands of spectacular rock-paintings, mainly in the ancient Kimberley region of Western Australia, that point to the existence of a previously unknown race of Australians as much as 50,000 or more years ago.

The paintings, known popularly as "the Bradshaws", bear absolutely no resemblance to traditional Aboriginal rock art.

In fact, according to some rock art experts, the Bradshaws comprise some of the finest, most elegant and oldest rock paintings found anywhere on Earth.

Scholars still debate who the mystery race was, where they came from and where they went.

Depicting mainly stylised human figures dressed in elaborate costumes adorned with tassels, sashes and great sweeping head-dresses, the pictures are significantly older than the subsequent Wandjina tradition, which is associated with modern Aboriginal culture.

(Sources: *The Weekend Australian*, 11-12 November 1995; *The Australian*, 15 November 1995)

## HEALTH BENEFITS OF VACCINATIONS DON'T OUTWEIGH THE RISKS

"In regard to your August 21 article, 'Ounce of Prevention', I feel I must respond. The statement that people sign the personal/philosophical waiver because of "complacency" due to "our busy lifestyle" and "it's an easy way out" couldn't be further from the truth. I have done a great deal of research on the pros and cons of vaccinations and have found some very frightening information. There is a large controversy within the pediatric profession as to the effectiveness and safety of vaccinations. Consequently, my decision not to immunize my son was not a light one. According to my research, the vaccination process completely compromises the natural immune system and increases the chance for atypical disease which causes many more problems than the actual disease. True immunity can never really be achieved through this method, which is evident by the need for 'booster shots'.

"Side-effects from vaccinations range from high fevers, convulsions, brain damage, the disease itself, to death. Due to healthy and sanitary living conditions today, the disease itself is less dangerous than the side-effects caused by the vaccinations. Part of the inherent problem with the vaccines is that they are made up of animal proteins such as horse blood and rabbit brain tissue or formaldehyde and mercury, which are known carcinogens. Measles was mentioned as a disease that is "vaccine preventable". Before the measles vaccination was introduced, it was extremely rare for an infant to contract measles. By 1993, more than 25 per cent of all measles occurred in babies under a year of age, yet the vaccine is not recommended under the age of 15 months.

"The Centers for Disease Control officers admitted that the situation is likely to get worse, and attributed it to the growing number of mothers who were vaccinated in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. (When natural immunity is denied, measles protection cannot be passed to the babies.) Today in the US, with 98 per cent immunization status due to enforced vaccinations, epidemics of measles still occur at three- to four-year intervals, unabated and uninfluenced by vaccinations. When a child contracts the disease naturally, the immune system is being strengthened for the future. (Viera Scheibner, Ph.D.)

"Most diseases were on a natural decline before the vaccinations were even introduced yet they were given all the credit. In countries that didn't have an extensive vaccination program, the disease also declined. In 1949, Dr Sandler spoke on the radio in Asheville, NC, warning parents to feed their children no sugar or foods containing sugar, in an effort to avert a polio-attack outbreak. He also recommended a high-protein diet with low-starch vegetables as being the best protection against low blood-sugar, a condition making people susceptible to polio.

"People responded with decreased sales in sugar, candy, ice creams, cakes, soft drinks, etc. Polio outbreaks in North Carolina were 2,402 cases in 1948. In 1949, after Dr Sandler's publicity, there were only 214 cases, even though the whole country had an increase. This was all accomplished without vaccinations and was highly publicized before vaccinations were introduced. Why isn't this the way to strengthen our children's immune systems now? Clean diet, clean living and low-stress environment have done more to eliminate and prevent disease over thousands of years than any other form of intervention. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle will aid the body's miraculous ability to resist diseases and heal itself. Our children deserve to have their immune systems function at the highest potential and not be compromised by intervention.

"Having researched all the available data, it is my conclusion that the benefits of vaccinations do not outweigh the risks. This was not a decision based on complacency but on hard-core facts. My main concern is that Rep. Lyn Bankes, who has introduced legislation to eliminate my philosophical waiver to vaccinate, is in effect abolishing my rights for freedom of choice in health care.

"In this age of 'less government', why should I be forced to submit to a controversial procedure with questionable results and dangerous side-effects in the name of my child's health? As a parent, I have the right to make the child's health-care choices—not the government."

(Source: Written by Michigan Chiropractic Council Member, Cheryl Snyder-Hughes, D.C., for *The Canton Observer*, Points of View section, 28 September 1995)